Ellwood - 13. Feb. 1878

Geo. E. Davenport

Dear Sir — Yours of Jan 1. is at hand. Were we not mistaken in supposing someone seated on the rock on the Stereoscopic view of the "Pearl". Mrs. Bartlett is in the picture.

We have had copious rainfalls and California is rejoicing in the prospect of a fruitful year. Up to this date we have had at Ellwood 15.5 in; more than an inch having fallen last night. A rich verdure covers every hill and cañon and plain. The country is lovely to behold. In a few weeks I will be out on botanical strolls. On the warm hillsides for flowers In the nooks and angles and ravines and clefts of rocks for the delicate ferns. How often [illegible] will be where the destructive visitors not. This morning I had to run with all my might to save one of my favorite spots from those wholesale nibbles. The herder told me that Mr. Cooper had given orders to have the woods all cleaned out by the sheep. But I convinced him Chinaman as he was that more than weeds grew there. So that choice spot was saved.

I am preparing my list of ferns and will have it ready to send to you in a few days.

My subscription for Torrey's Bulletin goes by this mail as also an order for your "Notes on Botrychium simplex Hitch"

I will do what I can to obtain living plants of Cheilanthes Cooperae for you as well as for others will note its habitat and write as particularly as I can.

Why did not the description of Cheilanthes Californica accompany the illustration in Prof. Eaton's second number of North American Ferns?

Very truly Yours

Sarah P. Cooper

I have just read over again your letter of Aug. 27. Some points of which I must notice. How have you succeeded with Cheilanthes Cooperae? In a month or two I must try and collect some live plants for you and others of my friends who desire to have the fern growing.

I have never seen this fern growing spontaneously. Will try to see it in its native state when the rains bring up vegetation.

If nothing prevents I will try to send you plenty of our Santa Barbara species.

Many thanks for your offer to aid me in collecting the flowering plants of New England. When through with my collection of ferns for the Society may want to make them one of the flowering plants.

I have not noticed two varieties of Aspidium Argutum with regard to fragrance as you observed. Will remember to do so when opportunity offers.

There are no Botrychium in this vicinity — at least — none found as yet —

I send you by this opportunity two Stereoscopic views one of the 'Pool' the other of a part of our Cañon. Neither of them very good. Such as they are please accept.

It is still very dry here. The hillsides are still brown and bare. The Stock on the ranches around us is dying. People are beginning to feel anxious about rain. If we have another dry year there will be much suffering in California. I hope, however that we will have a copious rain-fall before Christmas. that both stock growers and botanists may rejoice.

S. P. C.

13th It is raining. and promises an inch and more. We are all thankful. The poor starving cattle around us. I hope will soon have grass to nibble.